

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 042335

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 860 ACTION SECSTATE INFO SANTIAGO  
01 MAR 74

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UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 860

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, CI

SUBJECT: PALME AND ANDERSSON STATEMENTS ON EDELSTAM

REF: STOCKHOLM 842

SUMMARY: BOTH PRIMIN PALME AND FORNMINISTER ANDERSSON  
SHARPLY DEFEND THEIR ACTIONS IN "ADVISING" AMBASSADOR  
EDELSTAM ON HOW TO BEHAVE IN WASHINGTON FORUM. IN  
STATEMENTS TO SWEDISH PRESS EDELSTAM BACKS DOWN SOME  
FROM CHARGE HE WAS MUZZLED BUT INDICATES HE TESTIFIED  
UNDER CONSTRAINTS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN PALME APPEARED ON EVENING TV NEWS SHOW  
FEB. 28 TO MAKE STATEMENT ON CHARGE THAT GOS MUZZLED  
AMBASSADOR EDELSTAM IN HIS WASHINGTON APPEARANCE, A  
CHARGE WHICH EDELSTAM HAD LEVELED IN INTERVIEWS WITH  
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PAGE 02 STATE 042335

EVENING NEWSPAPERS. PALME SAID: "IN OUR MEETINGS WE

TOLD EDELSTAM THAT NATURALLY HE SHOULD TELL ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES IN CHILE AND THE SITUATION THERE, BUT THAT HE MUST CONSIDER WHAT CAN BE CLEARLY PROVED. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT KINDS OF MATERIAL ARE AVAILABLE. HE SHOULD ANSWER THE QUESTIONS HE GETS AND GIVE AN OPEN ACCOUNTING OF WHAT HE HAS SEEN AND EXPERIENCED IN CHILE." ASKED WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY AMERICAN PRESSURES IN THE EDELSTAM CASE, PALME SAID: "I DON'T SEE IT LIKE THAT. WE FIND IT SO IMPORTANT TO PRESENT THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN CHILE TO WORLD OPINION THAT WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT GIVE IN TO PRESSURES.

"I HAVE SEEN NO DIRECT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE CHILEAN COUP. IF THERE HAS BEEN ANY I CANNOT DECIDE, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SUCH HAS BEEN THE CASE."

2. EARLIER IN THE DAY, WHEN MFA SAW ADVANCE PROOFS OF AFTONBLADET INTERVIEW WITH EDELSTAM (REFTEL), ANDERSSON ISSUED STATEMENT, WHICH APPEARED IN AFTERNOON PAPERS ALONG WITH EDELSTAM STORY. ANDERSSON STATEMENT SAID: "HARALD EDELSTAM IS WRONG. I HAVE NOT CALLED HIM TO ANY MEETING AND I HAVE NOT FORBIDDEN HIM TO TELL TRUTH ABOUT CHILE. HE TOLD ME THAT HE IN HIS WASHINGTON APPEARANCE WOULD DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH CHILE. I HAVE MADE NO CHANGES IN HIS SPEECH. HE HAS GOVERNMENT'S PERMISSION TO GO TO WASHINGTON. THE CONFERENCE DEALS WITH CHILE AND HE IS AN EXPERT ON THE COUNTRY AND KNOWS THE FACTS. IT IS ON THAT BASE GOVERNMENT APPROVED HIS APPEARANCE IN WASHINGTON."

3. IN INTERVIEWS WITH STOCKHOLM MORNINGS PUBLISHED TODAY AND WITH SWEDISH RADIO CORRESPONDENT LAST NIGHT, EDELSTAM TONED DOWN EXTRAVAGANT CHARACTER OF HIS COMPLAINT AGAINST ANDERSSON AND MFA. TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF MODIFIED EDELSTAM LINE WAS FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO DAGENS NYHETER REPORTER: "GOS HAS NOT GIVEN ME ANY ORDERS ON WHAT TO SAY OR NOT SAY ABOUT CHILE WHILE I AM IN U.S., BUT NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT MFA HAVE WARNED ME THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN SWEDEN AND U.S. COULD FURTHER DETERIORATE IF I DID NOT HEDGE MY LANGUAGE."

4. EDELSTAM DISCLOSED THAT PALME HAD TELEPHONED HIM  
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PAGE 03 STATE 042335

YESTERDAY AFTER SEEING AFTONBLADET INTERVIEW. "HE SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY," EDELSTAM SAID. EDELSTAM SAID HE ASSURED PALME HE WAS VICTIM OF AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER EXAGGERATIONS.

COMMENT: THE MUZZLING CHARGE IS A DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE - AND SPECIFICALLY AN INTRA-SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY ISSUE - OF HIGH EMOTIONAL CONTENT. WE MAY EXPECT

TO HEAR MORE OF IT.  
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